

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

RECREATION LAND GRADING AND SHAPING

(acre)

CODE 566

DEFINITION

Altering the surface of the land to meet the requirements of recreation facilities.

PURPOSE

To permit effective use of the land area for recreation.

On sites where surface irregularities, slopes, kinds of soil, obstructions, or wetness interfere with planned recreational use; or where such use requires designed land surfaces.

Special attention shall be given to maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where applicable.

CONDITION WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

CRITERIA

Shaping. If only shaping is required, the cuts and fills may be estimated by observation or by a minimum amount of work with engineer's level.

Grading. If grading to uniform surfaces is required, the design shall be based on a complete topographic or grid survey.

Erosion control and drainage. The requirements for erosion control and surface and subsurface drainage shall be included in the plan.

Specific uses. Grading and shaping for specific uses, such as athletic fields shall be according to the requirements of the intended

use.

Vegetation. Distributed areas shall be established to vegetation as soon as practicable after grading. Seedbed preparation, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching shall comply with recommendations in technical guides.

CONSIDERATIONS

Water Quantity

1. Effects of grading on runoff and surface storage.
2. Effects of the amount and timing of decreased infiltration on evapotranspiration, change in soil moisture in the root zone, and deep percolation.

Water Quality

1. Effects of erosion and sediment yield on changes in runoff. Factors are the slope of the land before and after grading, the results caused by the construction process, and the amount of vegetation reestablished on the graded or shaped site.
2. Effects on ground water quality of decreased loading of dissolved pollutants, particularly the dissolved nutrients from decaying surface residues.
3. Effects of increased recreation and activities on the quality of both surface and ground water quality.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for recreation land grading and shaping shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE